

IMPROMPTU BRIDGE BUILDING IN WAR.

EVERY one who has read Xenophon's famous "Anabasis" will remember how that illustrious general of old describes his method of

structure that will carry the weight of cavalry and heavy artillery. This art of impromptu bridge building is acquired only after long prac-

such work are drilled long and patiently at home in the different forms of structures necessary for the carrying of troops over a stream. These bridges, of course, vary with the size and the nature of the stream to be crossed. If it is a wide river, the pontoon bridge is usually made use of. For this purpose each division in South Africa carries with it a number of strong but light pontoons. These are anchored in a line across the stream, girders are laid from one pontoon to the next, and a planking is then laid over the girders. To put together a bridge of this description is a comparatively simple matter. A far more delicate and difficult operation is to throw a single span over a 30 foot stream, and one that must be strong enough to support several tons weight at one time. The building materials

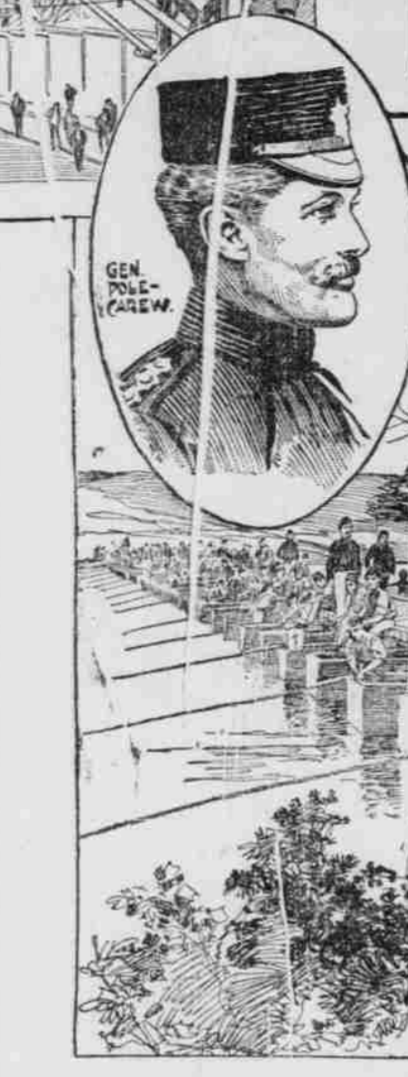
engineers can throw up with such limited resources in an hour or two. It is not pleasant work, for it means more often than not working up to the waist in running water, the climbing of muddy banks and, in fact, all the hardships of war without any of its glories. It has also all the dangers of active warfare, for, although the engineer corps is always preceded by a reconnoitering party and a guard, the men of such a corps necessarily have to do their work well in advance of the main body of their army and are liable to attack at any moment.

Owing to the nature of the country and the character of the campaigning in South Africa the corps whose forte is bridge building has very often been called into service. One of the most brilliant examples of their skill and



bridge building. During their advance into Persia infested sheepskins, it will be remembered, were the principal things in the bridges of those early Greeks. Since that time, however, more scientific methods and more satisfactory materials have come into use, and the up to date general always has a specially trained corps of men who are able to throw a bridge over any stream or river or swamp that may lie in the line of march in the twinkling of an eye.

In the British army the corps most noted for this sort of work is the Royal Engineer corps. Some idea of the marvelous work done by these men may be gained from the accompanying illustrations, which show impromptu bridges built out of the crudest material and constructed under the greatest disadvantages. For instance, at Modder river, early in the South African campaign, it was found necessary to throw a good, substantial bridge over the stream during the great battle of Nov. 28. This was done, and it will be remembered that General Methuen specially praised Brigadier General Pole-Carew and his men for their skill and dash in supplying the needed bridge on the spot when it was necessary. This officer was in command of the Guards at the Modder river fight, and his corps of engineers were hustled forward and had their bridge across the Modder almost before the astounded Boers could realize their intentions. When it is remembered that all or most of such construction work takes place under fire, and that the engineers at work have few or none of the implements employed by the expert bridge builder, it seems truly marvelous how they can throw together a

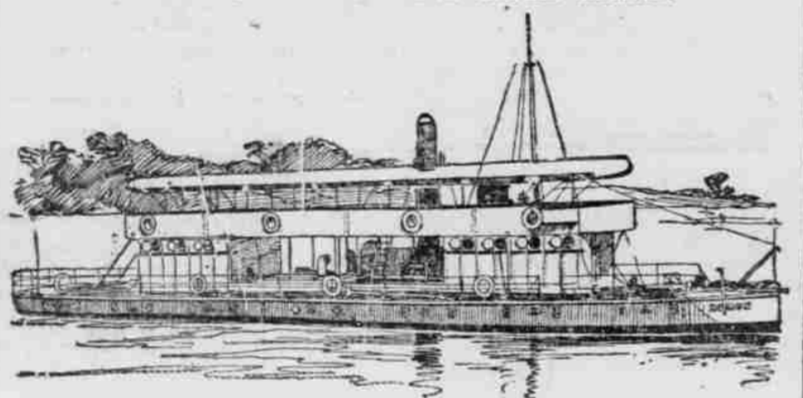


A VALUABLE FRENCH POODLE.
Rajah, whose portrait is herewith reproduced, is one of the costliest French poodles now in existence. Rajah is the property of an English woman who is a devoted dog fancier, and he has won many ribbons at different dog shows on the other side of the wa-



ter. Next year he is to be brought to America to compete for prizes at different kennel shows throughout the United States, and as he is one of the handsomest specimens of his class there is every reason to believe he will carry away many honors.

BRITAIN'S GUNBOATS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.



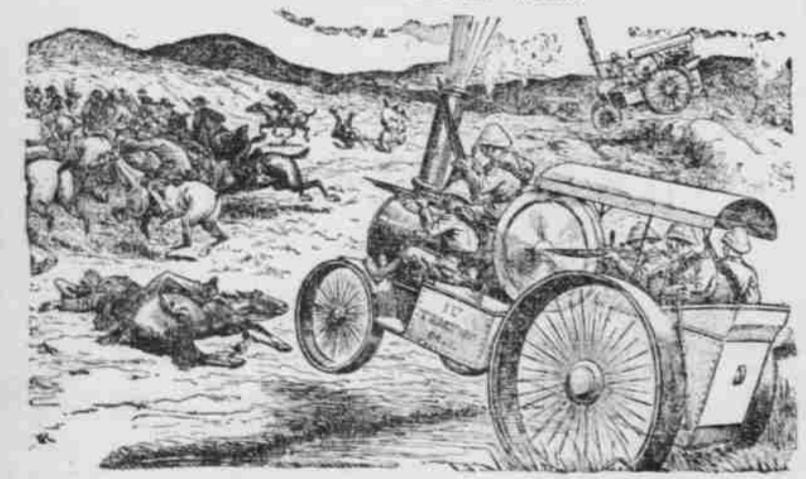
The accompanying illustration shows the new type of shallow draft gunboats recently adopted by the British war office for use in South Africa. Two such boats have just been built and shipped to the Cape, where they will at once be put into service against the Boers. These boats are subdivided into a number of floatable sections, arranged in such a way that the different sections can be quickly united while afloat, thus enabling the boats to be put together both easily and expeditiously. Besides this, they are capable of very easy transport, considering their floating capabilities. Craft of this character have been well tested by the British during their recent advances up the Nile and have proved eminently satisfactory, when armed with quick firing guns, for steaming about in shallow water and routing out an ambushed enemy.

HISTORIC OLD TRYSTING TREE.



Here is an old, old trysting tree, which, had it the power of conversation, could tell many a tale of love and adventure. This ancient tree stands near the romantic old ruined abbey of Alnwick, and under it the gallant Hotspur once drew up his men. After that for generations it was used as a trysting place for lovers from the neighboring village.

THE AUTOMOBILE IN WAR.



An English officer in South Africa has given the world his idea of how the war of the future will be carried on, and in a rather humorous sketch shows some traction mounted infantry in action against a band of Transvaal burghers. While this officer's drawing, which is herewith reproduced, is more or less of a satire on the mechanical features of modern warfare, it is true that the British have at present in operation in South Africa a great number of traction engines. These engines are used merely for the hauling of the supply wagons, however, and not for charging gallantly over Boer trenches.

A JEWELLED VIOLIN.



One of the season's novelties in the form of jewelry is a gold brooch made in the shape of a violin and richly incrustated with diamonds. This is but one of the many new freak designs which manufacturing jewelers have been putting on the market of late. The model of the instrument is perfect and the workmanship is very fine, but the appropriateness of a miniature violin as a personal ornament seems to be restricted to persons of a musical turn of mind alone.

THE SAVONAROLA CHAIR.



One of the latest fads in antique furniture is the Savonarola chair which has recently been introduced into America from England. This quaint old bit of furniture is usually made of oak, heavily carved, with the seat upholstered with genuine pieces of old brocade. In order to produce the antique effect, the wood is artificially darkened with a stain, and when the back is richly carved, as many of them are, this old fashioned seat makes a very ornamental piece of parlor furniture.

DEWEY'S SNUFFBOX.



One of the most treasured souvenirs possessed by Admiral Dewey, it is said, is a Spanish snuffbox picked up by the admiral while at Manila. This old specimen of the jeweler's art is of silver and heavily chased. It is supposed to have been manufactured several centuries ago, at a time when Spanish metal workers early acquired a most mysterious skill in the making of such articles as this quaint old snuffbox.

WHERE WOUNDED BRITISHERS ARE NURSED.



The accompanying illustration shows Lourdesford, the attractive South African home of Sir James Sivright, where a great number of wounded British soldiers are being nursed back to health just at the present time. This picturesque home is near Cape Town, and the grounds surrounding it are a paradise of tropical and European vegetation. Sir James Sivright has not only handed over his house and estates for the use of the wounded, but has also organized a medical and nursing staff which has received official recognition from the war office in London.

A REGIMENTAL MASCOT.



Here is the mascot of one of the Welsh regiments now fighting in the South African campaign. This mascot, which is a long horned, shaggy haired Welsh goat, was presented to the regiment by Queen Victoria, and when the men went to South Africa accompanied them to the front. On the forehead of the goat, as will be seen from the illustration, always appears the insignia of the regiment which has adopted it as a pet.

THE KING OF THE BASUTOS.



Though the royal costume of the king of the Basutos consists of a discarded and well worn cricket coat, and his trousers an old pair of English infantry breeches, this royal personage is not without a sense of his own regal importance. The accompanying picture shows the king surrounded by his sons and accompanied by his royal secretary, the latter official appearing in an old top hat and a jacket, somewhat the worse for wear, of a grenadier bandman. King Masupha, in the Transvaal war, has taken active sides with the English, finding it impossible to forget old wrongs inflicted upon him by Oom Paul and his people.

A GALLANT ADMIRAL.

Here is a full fledged admiral who, at the risk of his own life, saved a marine who had fallen overboard from his ship. This hero is Admiral Seymour, the commander of the British fleet in eastern waters, and, although his breast is covered with medals and orders when he is in full dress, he has no badge of which he is prouder than the Royal Humane society medal given for this act of gallantry. Admiral Seymour served on the



Terrible through the Crimean war, and also in the two wars between England and China and in the Egyptian campaign of 1882. For a time he was commander of the channel squadron, but two years ago, was appointed to the China station.

Indian scouts among the Nez Perces and Umatillas are being enlisted for the Philippine service.

HOW BOER PRISONERS KILL TIME.

One of the favorite amusements of the many Boer prisoners who are held on board the different British cruisers, lying off Durban is salt water fishing. These stolid Boers spend a great deal



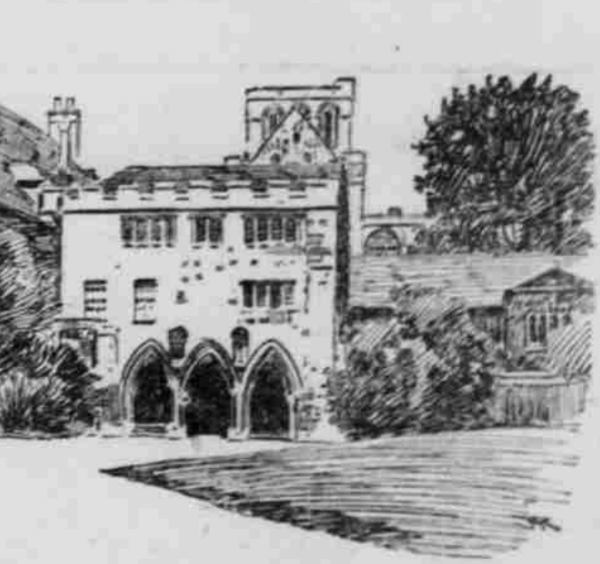
of their time casting from the side of the ship where they are on parole and seem to forget their captivity in the delight of hauling up a good fish. The illustration is from a snap shot of a captured Boer officer making a catch.

A DAUGHTER OF FRANCE IN FESTIVAL DRESS.



This is the picturesque costume in which the women of Boulogne make their processional pilgrimage each year to the shrine of "Our Lady of Boulogne." Unlike most religious festivities, this pilgrimage is not one of somber colors. It is a celebration attended with great pomp and pageantry, and in this procession first come banners, followed by bluejackets with a model of a ship, next little girls dressed to typify angels, followed by fishermen veiled in white and carrying crosses, then little boys in blue carrying anchors, and at the last the young women in picturesque native dress like that shown in the accompanying illustration. With their bright crimson petticoats, their close fitting and fanlike muslin caps and their many hued silk shawls they present a very attractive picture as they vend their way slowly along the roads of the little French town on their way to the shrine.

A DEANERY WITH A HISTORY.



It is not generally known that the long notorious Neil Gwynn was once the means of securing a bishopric for an English doctor of divinity. The story is an interesting one. During one of the visits of that merry monarch, King Charles, to Winchester, while engaged with his plans for building a royal residence in that historic city, Mistress Neil Gwynn was, of course, in attendance. It became necessary for Charles to provide her with a lodging, so the merry monarch casually requested that Dr. Ken, then prebendary of Winchester, should receive Mistress Neil into his snug little deanery. This the reverend doctor, who had a will of his own, stoutly refused to do. King Charles was too sensible a man to take umbrage at such a just exhibition of independence and religious integrity, and so when the bishopric of Bath and Wells became vacant this capricious sovereign promptly inquired for the good little man who had refused to take the prodigal Mistress Gwynn under his deanery roof, and as promptly made him the next bishop. The accompanying illustration shows this historic old deanery at Winchester which was once the scene of such regal goings on.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The oldest tree in the world, it is said, is a cypress tree in Mexico which measures 120 feet about the base, and which is believed to be 6,000 years old and more ancient than the baobab tree of Africa, which is said to have lived 5,700 years. The yew tree in all times, from the early days of the Egyptians to the later civilization of England, has been esteemed as a mourning emblem. Branches of the yew were carried over the dead by the mourners in England

sawyers, using British and American tools, with the object of proving which country manufactures the best implements. It is probable that time was first divided into the year by observations of the movements of the sun among the other heavenly bodies; that the revolutions of the moon about the earth decided the length of the month, and the rising and setting of the sun marked the duration of the day. The analytical commission appointed by the London Lancet to investigate the composition of American cigarettes,

as well as that of the most popular English makes, reports that the test failed to show opium, arsenic, phosphorus or mercury in a single instance. "There is not a single scintilla of evidence," says The Lancet, "on which can be fairly based the allegation of the presence of any substance injurious to health." Over 1,500 houses in London are tenanted because they are popularly supposed to be haunted. The British government keeps 11 vessels at work sounding and charting the ocean beds to find out where dangers

lurk. Last year 16,000 square miles were carefully charted in different parts of the world—Asia, Africa and the south Pacific. A gentleman in Louisville makes a pet of a large white gander, which is devoted to its owner and accompanies him on his walks. If approached by a stranger, the gander flutters to his master, squawking for protection, and is comforted as one might comfort a dog. Germany has prohibited the use of saccharin for the production of beer, wine, etc. Other artificial sweetening

substances are also interdicted. Belgium has prohibited the importation, manufacture and sale of saccharin except for medical purposes, and France also prohibits the use of this substance in food. In Great Britain saccharin must not be used in beer manufacture. The board of education and the police department of New York are the two most expensive departments of the municipal government. Collectively their maintenance costs \$25,000,000 a year. The Italian ministry has ordered 111

locomotives, 456 passenger coaches, 56 baggage vans and 2,556 freight cars, in addition to the 112 locomotives and 1,556 goods wagons that have already been ordered to meet the needs of the Mediterranean and Southern Railway of Italy. In Arabia the Arabs sometimes find in the sandy deserts a kind of fungus which apparently resembles the berries of the holly, and which serves as food for both men and camels when no better is to be found. It appears soon the sand after every rain, sometimes in little heaps.